

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 /023 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1996

DEA HQS WASHDC

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S/NM FOR VANCE; SER/INC FOR WAMPLER; DEA EOI FOR CUSACK

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR MEX

SUBJECT: WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORT #4 (12-12 THRU 12-18-75)

(OPERATION TRIZO)

1. SUMMARY: THERE HAS BEEN GENERAL REDUCTION IN ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THREE ZONES IN ANTICIPATION OF HOLIDAY SEASON. THERE IS RELATIVELY NO ERADICATION IN ZONE 1. IN ZONE 2, ONLY ACITIVITY IS THAT OF 6TH INFANTRY BATTALION IN APATZINGAN, BUT EVEN HERE, ACTIVITY HAS DIMINISHED. IN ZONE 3, ONLY HELICOPTER EQUIPPED WITH SIMPLEX SYSTEM HAS BEEN SPRAYING IN AREA OF ALTAMIRAN, GERRERO, AND INITIAL RESULTSA LOOK PROMISING. BASED ON INFO DEVELOPED BY DEA, MFJP SEIZED 23.3 KILOS OF OPIUM GUM, 2.3 KILOS OF MORPHINE, AND 2-1/2 TONS OF MARIHUANA.

2. ERADICATION

A. STATISTICAL SUMMARY:

ZONEH1 - STATES OF SONORA, SINALOA, DURANGO AND CHIHUAHUA.

OPIUM: FIELDS DESTROYED - 17; SQ METERS DESTROYED - 51, 450

SQ METERS; PLANTS DESTROYED - 71,150; HECTARES - 5.14

MARINUANA (DESTROYED BY HERBICIDES) FIELDS DESTROYED BY HERBICIDES - 16; SQ METERS DESTROYED - 25,000; PLANTS DESTROYED -

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277,000; HECTARES - 2.5.

MARIHUANA: FIELDS DESTROYED - 185; SQ METERS DESTROYED - 1,149,218;
PLANTS DESTROYED - 26,500,905; HECTARES - 115.

ZONE 2 - STATE OF JALISCO, AYARIT, COLIMA, ZACATECAS AND
MICHOACAN:

OPIUM: FIELDS DESTROYED - 16; SQ METERS DESTROYED - 24,350;
PLANTS DESTROYED - 487,000; HECTARES - 2.435.
MARIHUANA: FIELDS DESTROYED - 94; SQ METERS DESTROYED - 14,734;
PLANTS DESTROYED - 1,314,170; HECTARES - 1.47.

ZONE 3 - STATES OF GERRERO, MORELOS AND OAXACA:

OPIUM: FIELDS DESTROYED - 16; SQ METERS DESTROYED - 6,750;
PLANTS DESTROYED - 1,275,000; HECTARES - 6.375.
OPIUM FIELDS DESTROYED BY HERBICIDES: FIELDS DESTROYED - 28;
HECTARES - 7.
MARIHUANA: FIELDS DESTROYED - 43; SQ METERS - 21,000;
PLANTS DESTROYED - 841,849; HECTARES - 2.1.

B. CUMULATIVE ERADICATION STATISTICS (FOR ALL 3 ZONES)

OPIUM: FIELDS DESTROYED - 164; POPPY DESTRUCTION (HECTARES)
- 49.62; SQ METERS - 498,375; PLANTS DESTROYED - 8,910,550.
OPIUM FIELDS DESTROYED BY HERBICIDES: FIELDS DESTROYED - 28;
HECTARES - 7.0.
MARIHUANA: FIELDS DESTROYED - 322; SQ METERS DESTROYED - 1,184,952;
PLANTS DESTROYED - 28,646,924; HECTARES - 118.5.
MARIHUANA FIELDS DESTROYED BY HERBICIDES: FIELDS DESTROYED - 16;
SQ METERS DESTROYED - 25,000; PLANTS DESTROYED - 277,000;
HECTARES - 2.5.

C. PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENT:

IN ALL THREE ZONES, THERE HAS BEEN MARKED REDUCTION ON LIMITED NUMBER OF SOLDIERS COMMITTED TO ERADICATION CAMPAIGN.

ZONE #1 - ALL ERADICATION BY MEXICAN SOLDIERS HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED. 50 PERCENT OF THE MJFP WILL BE ON LEAVE DURING THE XMAS HOLIDAYS. REMAINDER, WITH ABSENCE OF THEIR SUPERVISORS, WILL DO TOKEN WORK PRIMARILY ON ROADBLOCKS. THERE IS STILL NO ERADICATION ACTIVITY OUT OF MAZATLAN, ZINALOA. WE EXPECT THAT PERSONNEL WILL ALSO BE ABSENT DURING THE HOLIDAYS.
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ZONE #2 - THERE IS NO COMMITMENT OF SOLDIERS IN STATES OF JALISCO AND NAYARIT, AND ONLY TOKEN NUMBER IN STATE OF COLIMA, PRIMARILY FOR ROADBLOCK ACTIVITIES. IN THIS ZONE, ONLY ACTIVE NUMBER OF SOLDIERS ARE THOSE OF 6TH INFANTRY BATTALION BASED IN APATZINGAN. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TOTAL COMMITMENT OF 300 SOLDIERS TO ERADICATION EFFORT. THIS NUMBER HAS NOW BEEN REDUCED

TO APPROX 100.

ZONE 3 - ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN COMMITMENT
BY ZONE COMMANDER OF 35TH MILITARY ZONE IN
CHILPANCING, GERRERO, THERE ARE VERY FEW SOLIDERS
INVOLVED IN ACTUAL ERADICATION. THOSE THAT ARE
ASSIGNED TO OUTPOSTS HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF
SUPPRESSING ANY TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. BECAUSE OF
HAZARDOUS SITUATION, SOLIDERS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN
ERADICATION ARE BROUGHT IN BY HELICOPTER TO SPECIFIC
FIELD AND TAKEN OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER DESTRUCTION
HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THIS LIMITS USE OF BELL
212 IN SUPPORTING MORE THAN TWO OR THREE COLUMNS AT
TIME. FOR THIS REASON, HERBICIDE SPRAYING HAS BEEN
MORE ACTIVE IN THIS AREA THAN IN ANY OTHER ZONE.

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D. ARRESTS OF OPIUM AND MARIHUNAA CULTIVATORS

NONE.

3. AVIATION OPERATIONS

1. NUMBER OF HOURS FLOWN: WEEKLY BASIS, 12-17 DEC.

A. MODEL 212: 73 HRS: AVAILABILITY 68 PERCENT.

B. MODEL 206B: 46 HRS: AVAILABILITY 43 PERCENT.

C. CESSNA 185: 31 HRS: AVAILABILITY 83 PERCENT.

D. AEROCOMMANDER: ZERO HRS. AVAILABILITY 50 PERCENT.

2. THE STEERING COMMITTEE USED THE ABOVE FIGURES

TO GRAPHICALLY ILLUSTRATE TO DR. GERTZ THAT HIS RESOURCES

ARE BEING EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED. CONTRARY TO FIELD REPORTING, THE SEASONAL HOLIDAYS HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL OF THE PILOT RANKS. FURTHER, CAPTIAN BEST IS SUBJECT-ING ALL PILOTS TO INTENSIVE TESTING BEFORE HE APPROVES THEM FOR FLYING MISSIONS.

3. MAINTENANCE: COR REPORTS HE HAD NOTICED A PROGRESSIVE DIMINUTION OF TECHNICAN PRESENCE AT THE AG HANGAR AS THE HOLIDAYS DRAW NEAR. BASED ON THE READINGS FROM THE NAU AVIATION EXPERTS, THE MAINTENANCE LEVEL IS STILL ABOVE THE PRESENT OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, PERCENTAGES NOTWITHSTANDING. ONCE THE PILOTS AND MECHANICS RETURN AND ARE DEPLOYED THROUGHOUT THE ZONEX, THE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS WILL STRAIN THE MAINTENANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEVELS.

4. SPARE PARTS AND COMPONENTS: THE MOST RECENT ARRIVAL OF NEW MODEL 212 WAS LOADED WITH SPARES BY BHC AND LANDED AT AG HANGAR FACILITIES WITH NO INCIDENTS. THE REMAINING THREE MODEL 212'S SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY THIS WEEKENED WILL HAVE SOME SPARES ON BOARD. WE ARE STILL EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE AERO COMMANDER (XC-CON) FOR PERIODIC SHUTTLE FLIGHTS TO BHC TO BRING SPARES AND COMPONENTS.

5. THE PROPOSAL DESIGNED TO AUGMENT THE AG'S RW SPRAYING QUALIFIED PILOTS WAS ACCEPTED AND PROFESSOR SOLIS AND ENGINEER MARISCAL-FLORES WERE INSTRUCTED TO COMMENCE RECRUITMENT. THE LIST OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES INDICATE NINE COULD BE AVAILABLE, HOWEVER, AN ADDITIONAL FOUR HAVE SINCE BEEN ADDED. REALISTICALLY, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN MANPOWER UNTIL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.

6. STEERING COMMITTEE POUCHED A COPY OF THE CURRENTLY DEVELOPED STATUS SHEET TO WASHINGTON TO PROVIDE A BETTER FEEL FOR THE EXTENT OF AIRCRAFT WE ARE NOW MONITORING ON A DAILY BASIS.

7. LANDING AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY AG SENIOR STAFF FOR NON-SCHEDULED AIRCRAFT LANDINGS AT THE AIRPORT IN PACHUCA, HIDALGO.

F. MOPSS AND OTHER POPPY DETECTION INTELLIGENCE

1. NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS REPORTING AS AERO COMMANDER XC-GOZ WAS GROUND FOR SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE. SECOND MOPSS HAS NOT BEEN INSTALLED AS NEW

AG HANGAR FACILITIES DO NOT HAVE WATER/POWER CONNECTIONS. SENIOR STAFF HAS INFORMED US IT WOULD BE INJUFICIOUS TO INSTALL EQUIPMENT NOW AND MOVE IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. STEERING COMMITTEE HAS ADVISED SENIOR STAFF THAT WITH PRESENT NUMBER OF FIELDS, VISUAL RECONS HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROVEN TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE. RECON FLIGHTS HAVE DETECTED MORE FIELDS THATN DESTRUCTION UNITS CAN HANDLE; HOWEVER, RECON FLIGHTS HAVE DIMINISHED BASED ON 185 USAGE DATA.

G. COMMUNCATIONS

1. THERE HAS BEEN A SEROUS DELAY IN INSTALLATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE THREE ZONES. MUCH OF THE EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED TO THE AG'S OFFICE IS STILL IN ITS ORIGINAL SHIPPING CONTAINERS. WE WILL IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM AND ASSIST WHEREEVER POSSIBLE TO AVOID THE SAME TYPE OF PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED IN PREVIOUS COMAPAGNS.

H. HERBICIDES

1. AVIATION SYSTEMS ADVISOR FORD DEPARTED FOR ARCELIA, GUERRERO ON MORNING OF DECEMBER 13 AND SPRAYING OPERATIONS HAVE COMMENCED IN BOTH STATES OF GUERRERO AND SINALOA. MOST RECENT FIELD REPORTS INDICATED THAY ON A GIVEN DAY, 28 (TWENTY-EIGHT) POPPY FIELDS WERE SPRAYED WITHIN A THREE-HOUR TIME-FRAME IN ARCEILA, GUERRERO. WE ARE AWAITING FORD'S RETURN FOR FULL FACTUAL REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SPRAYING OPERATIONS.

2. RECENT MISSION CABLES EMPHASIZE THE URGENCY IN EXPEDIGING ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT TO AUGMENT THE AG'S HERBICIDE SPRAYING CAPABILITY ON AN IMMEDIATE BASIS.

3. INTERDICTION

ZONE 1 - STATES OF SONORA, SINALOA, DURANGO AND CHIHUAHUA.

8,077 TONS OF MARIHUANA
120 KILOS OF MARIHUANA SEED
1.750 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN
6. GUNDS
3. TRUCKS
2 CARS

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18 DEFENDANTS.

"9,3 2 - STATES OF JALISCO, NAYARIT, COLIMA,
ZACATECAS AND MICHOACAN.
263 KILOS OF MARIHUANA
5.368 KILOS OF HEROIN

5 MAN-DRAX PILLS
3 CARS
10 DEFENDANTS.

ZONE 3 - STATES OF GUERRERO, MORELOS & OAXACA
19 KILOS OF MARIHUANA
19.5 KILOS OF OPIUM
16 GUNS
3 CARS
12 DEFENDANTS

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CUMULATIVE INTERDICTION FIGURES FOR ALL 3 ZONES.
60.027 TONS OF MARIHUANA
120 KILOS OF MARIHUANA SEEDS

28.657 KILOS OF HEROIN
2.983 KILOS OF COCAINE
5. HEROIN CONVERSION LABS
4,050,000 MINI-BENNIES (AMPHETAMINES)
62.5 KILOS OF OPIUM GUM
3 PILL PRESSES
23 GRAMS OF BENZEDRINE
5 GRAMS OF HASHISH
4. GRAMS OF AMPHETAMINE POWDER
55 MANDRAX PILLS
13 TRUCKS
2 TRAILER TRUCKS
42 AUTOMOBILES
79 HAND GUNS
23 RIFLES
1 SHRIMP BOAT
3 AIRCRAFT
1,000 ROUNDS OF AMMO
186 DEFENDANTS

B. USE OF INTERDICTION UNITS

WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE THE MOBKEL VANS BY MID-JANUARY.
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OTHER ROADBLOCKS NOW IN POSITION HAVE BEEN REDUCEC IN
NUMBER BECAUSE OF LACK OF SOLDIERS AND MFJP AGENTS TO
MAN THEM.

C. N/A

D. N/A

E. N/A

F. N/A

G. MISSION ANALYSIS OF TRENDS OR OTHER CONCLUSIONS
WHICH ABOVE DATA MAY INDICATE.
SAME AS LAST REPORT.

4. COMMENTS AND ACTIONS REQUESTED.

ON 12-17-75, THE STEERING COMMITTEE MET WITH DR.
GERTZ AND HIS STAFF TO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS OF THE
CAMPAIGN. DR. GERTZ POINTED OUT THAT IT IS VERY DIF-
FICULT IN ALMOST ANY COUNTRY FOR AN AG TO ORDER THE
MILITARY, BUT THAT IN MANY CASES, THE MILITARY ZONE
COMMANDERS WERE WILLING TO FURNISH THE NECESSARY TROOPS
IF COMPENSATION BY WAY OF EITHER MONEY OR FOOF WAS
FURNISHED BY THE AG'S OFFICE. DR. GERTZ ADVISED THAT

HE HAD PERMISSION FROM THE AG TO UTILIZE WHATEVER FUNDS WERE AVAILABE TO SUPPORT THE SOLDIERS, AND STATED THAT ONCE THESE FUNDS WERE GONE HE WOULD TURN TO THE USG FOR SUPPORT. DR. GERTZ ADVISED THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF AIRCRAFT HAD HAD A MARKED INCREASE BUT TO EXPECT TO COVER THE TOTAL ERADICATION AREA AND SUPPORT TROOP MOVEMENT AND FERRY SUPPLIES WITH THE CURRRENT AIR FLEET WAS ALOMOST AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK. THE CAMPAIGN NOW COVERS ONE-HALF OF THE TERRITORY OF MEXICO. TO HAVE AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM, PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT, TO SUPPORT SUCH AN AREA IS A HARD UNDERTAKING LITTERED WITH VARIOUS PROBLEMS. DR. GERTZ STATED THAT HE WAS NOT AT ALL SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE CAMPAIGN EVEN THOUGH MUCH HAS BEEN DONE. HE STRESSED THAT THE USG MUST REACT QUICKER TO THEIR NEEDS IN SUPPLYING THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FOR HERBICIDE SPRAYING (THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN AND WE EXPECT THE DELIVERY OF THREE SIMPLEX II SYSTEMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITH OTHER SPRAY EQUIPMENT DELIVERED WHEN AVAILABLE. WE ADVISED DR. GERTZ THAT USG WOULD SUPPORT HIS AIR SERVICE WITH ADDITIONAL SPRAY PILOTS HIRED UNDER CONTRACT. WE AALL AGREED THAT THE ONLY METHOD AVAILABLE TO QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY ERADICATE WOULD BE HERBICIDES. ALTHOUGH THE PRESENCE OF SOLDIERS IS IMPORTANT, WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE OUR ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE HERBICIDE PROGRAM.
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